



Southeast Minnesota Synod Assembly
Susan Brower, Minnesota State Demographer
May 6, 2023

2 Demographic Questions for Today

1. How should we understand our communities today?
2. What will our communities be like in the future?



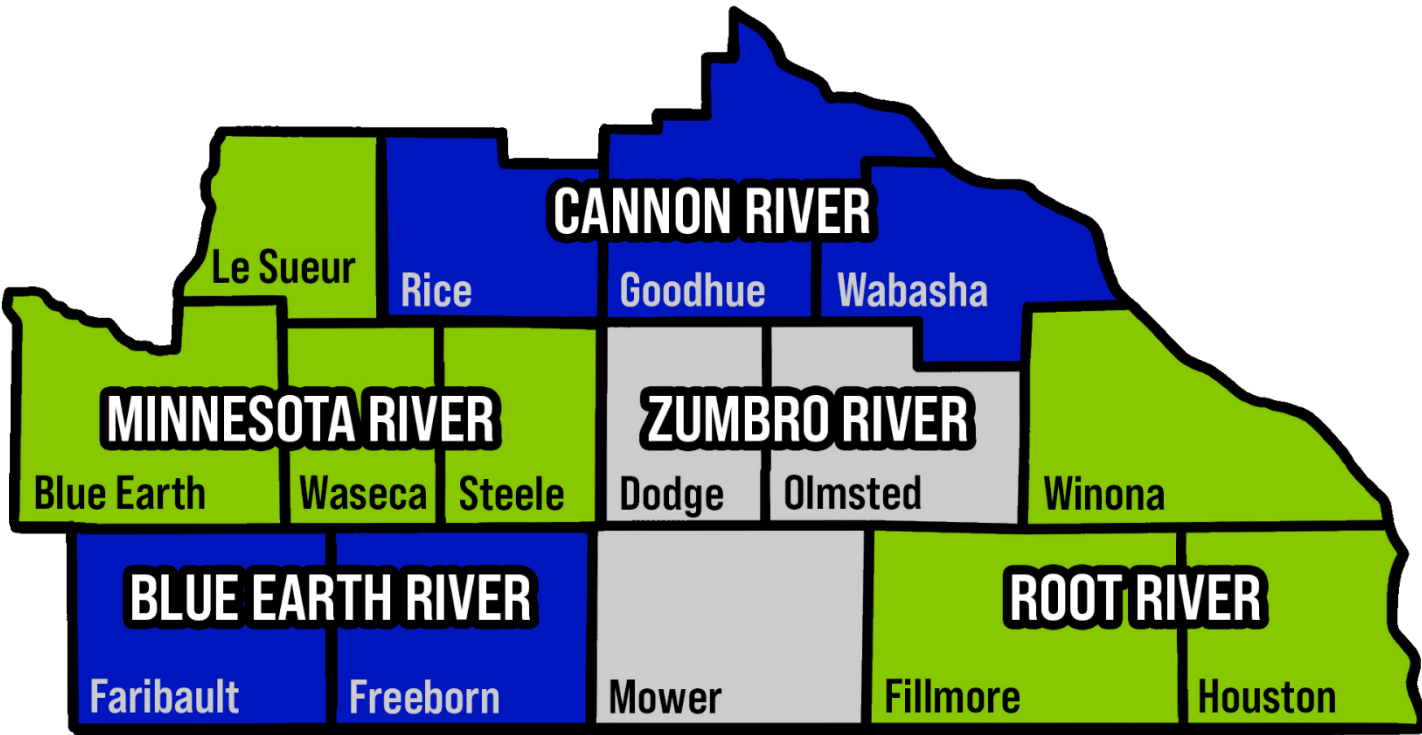
Southeast Minnesota Synod Region

In 2020, Southeast region was home to

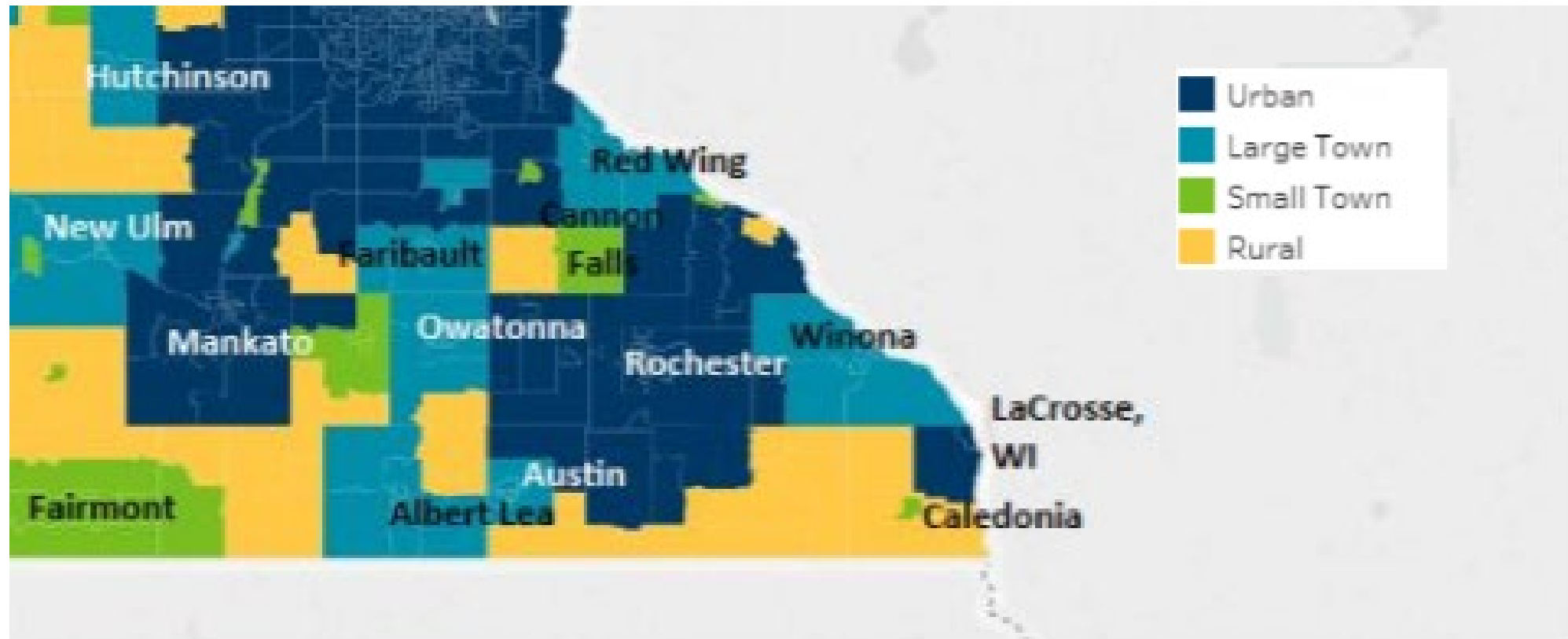
648,527

Minnesotans

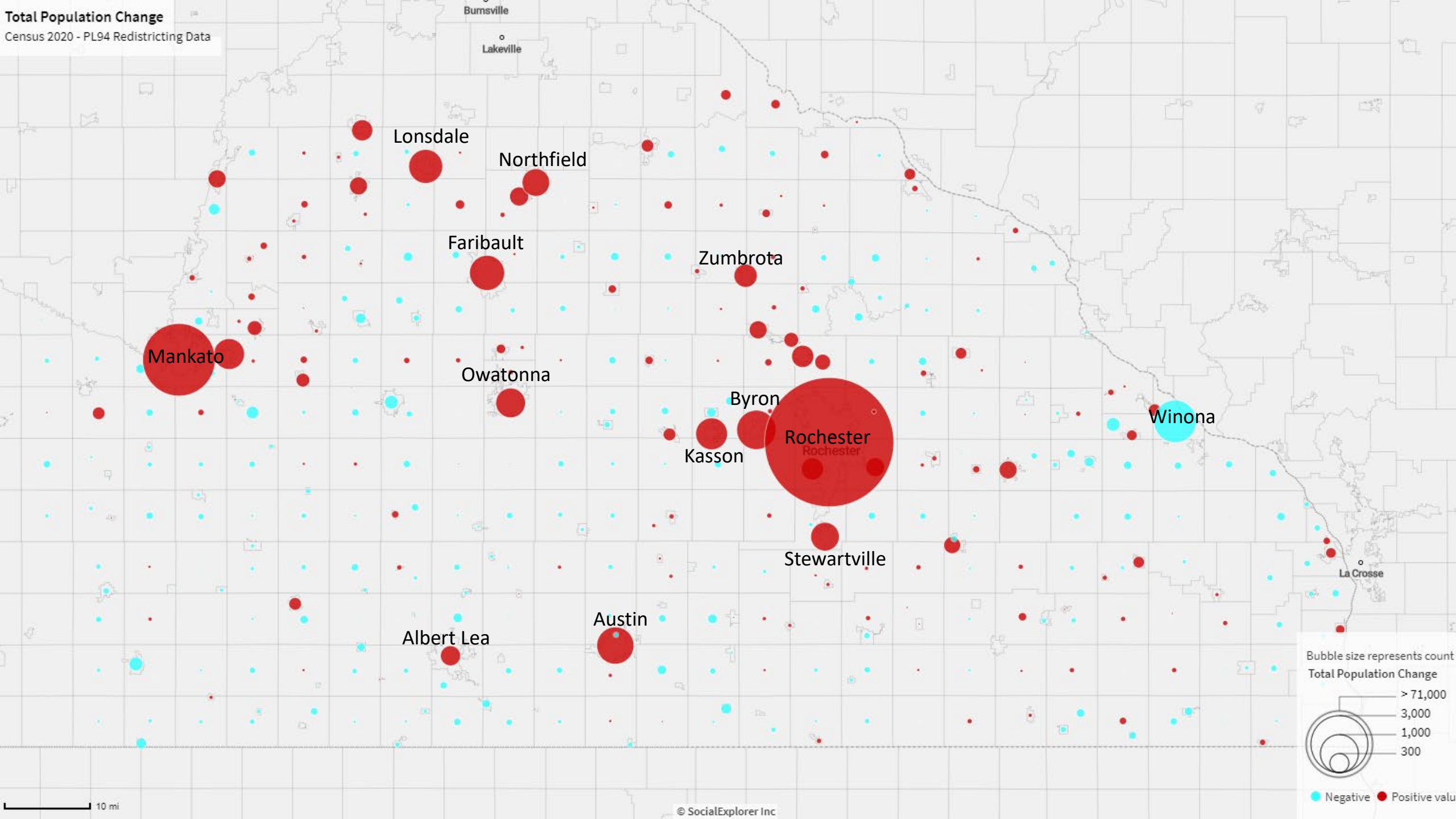
or about 11% of the state overall.



Q: How rural or urban is southeast Minnesota?



Note: Rural is <2,500 people, Small town is 2,500-9,999, Large town is 10,000-49,000, Metro is 50,000

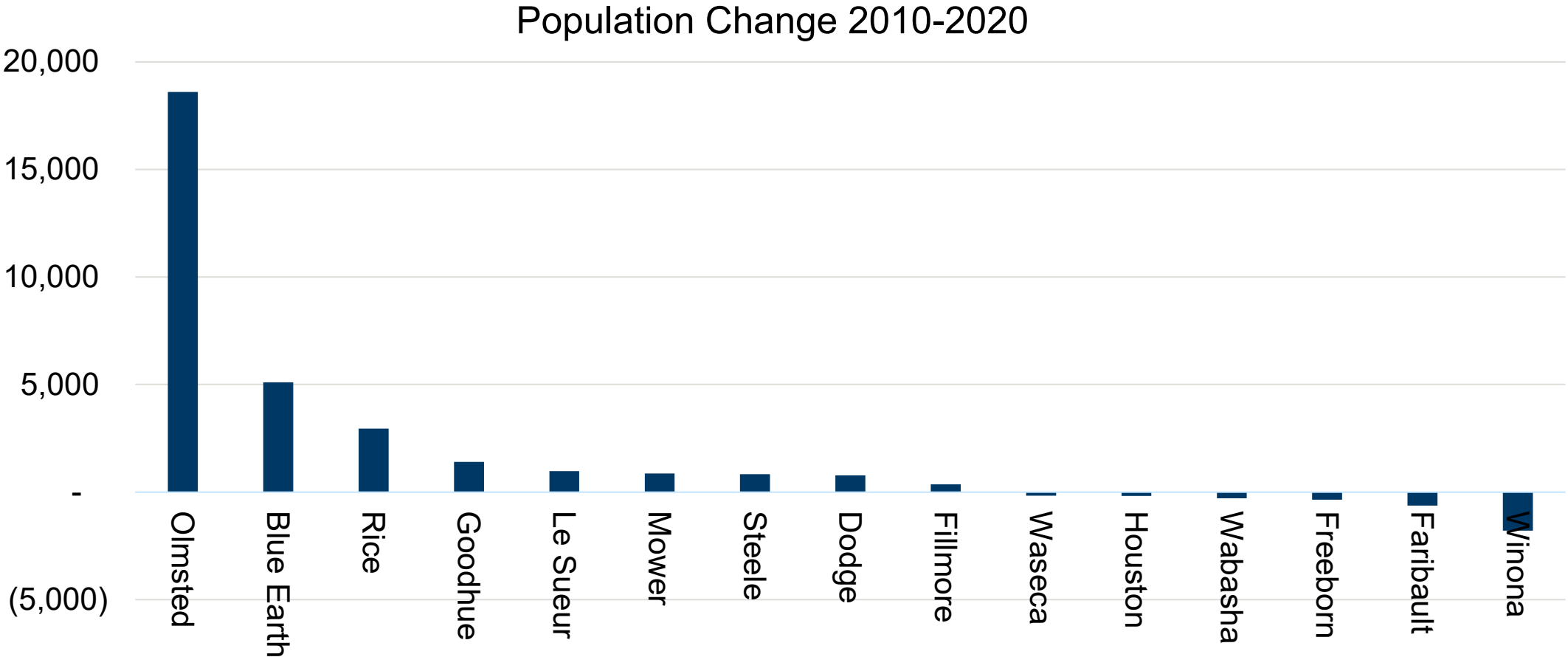


Bubble size represents count
Total Population Change

- > 71,000
- 3,000
- 1,000
- 300

● Negative ● Positive value

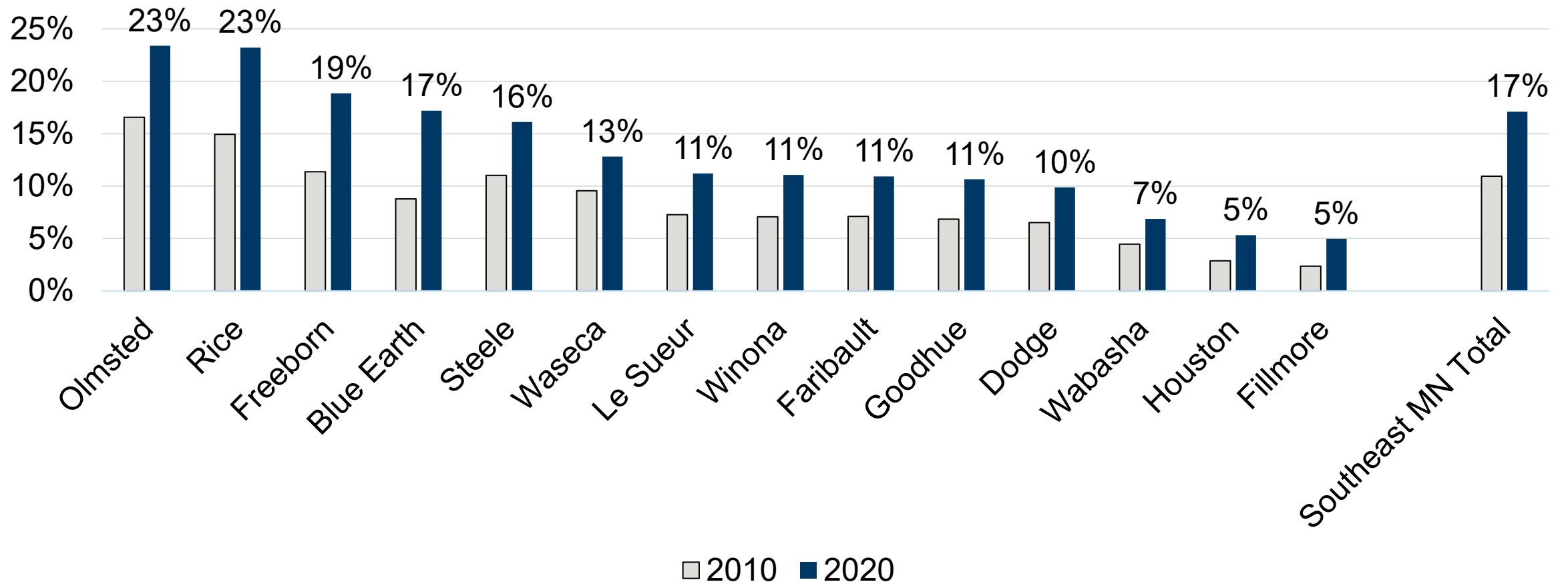
Population Growth has been concentrated in the large, urban metropolitan areas



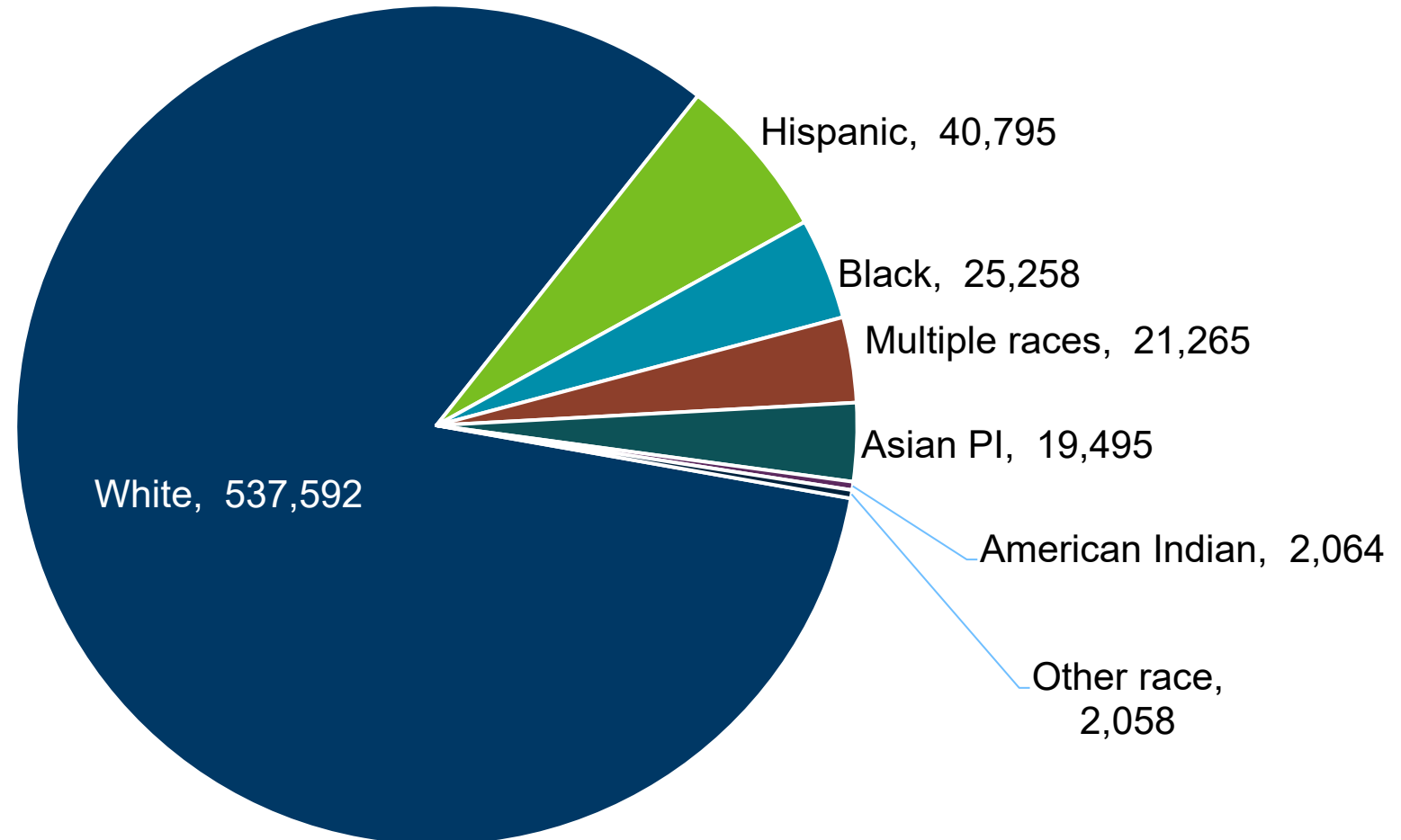
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Censuses

Q: How racially diverse is Southeast Minnesota?

Percent Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)



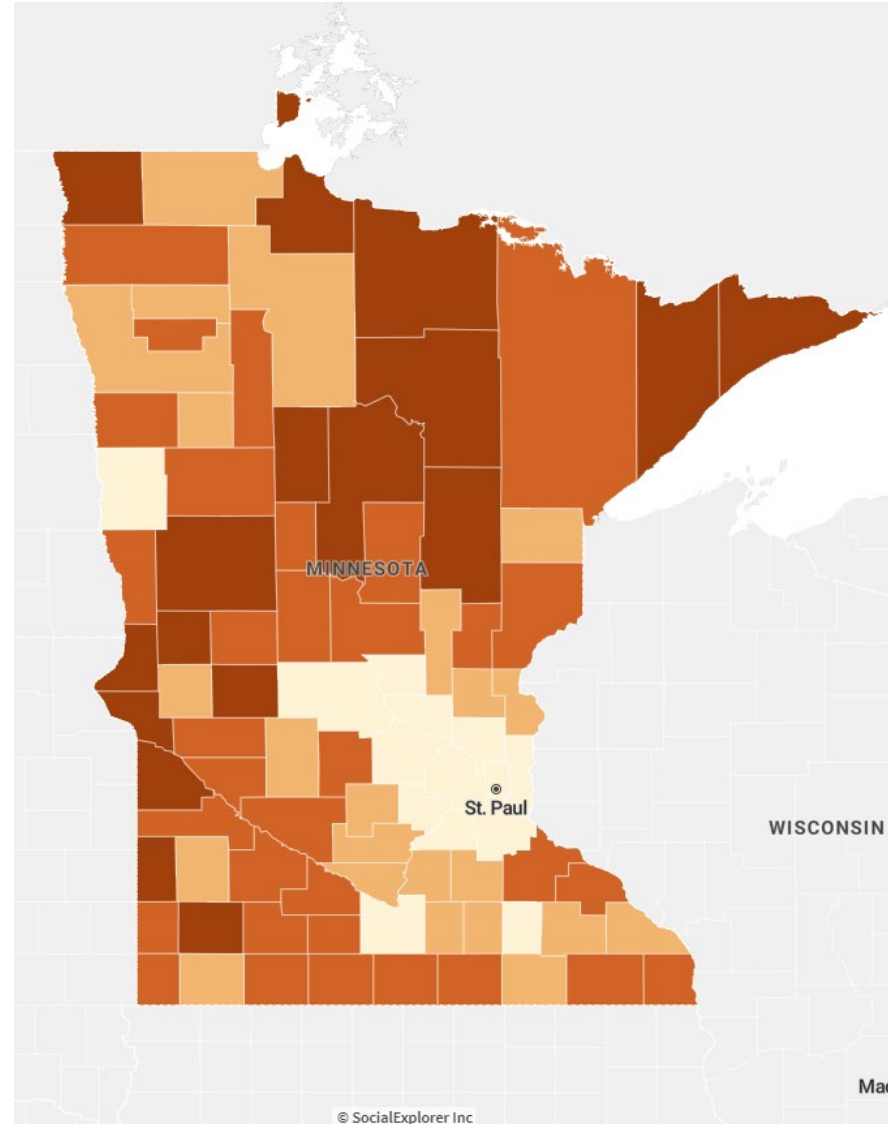
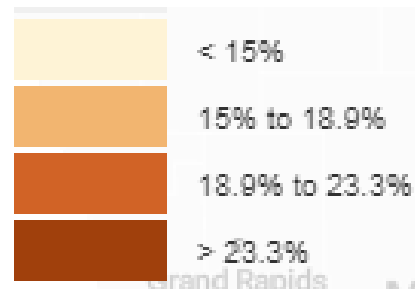
17% of Southeast Minnesota residents are People of Color/ BIPOC (~111,000 people)



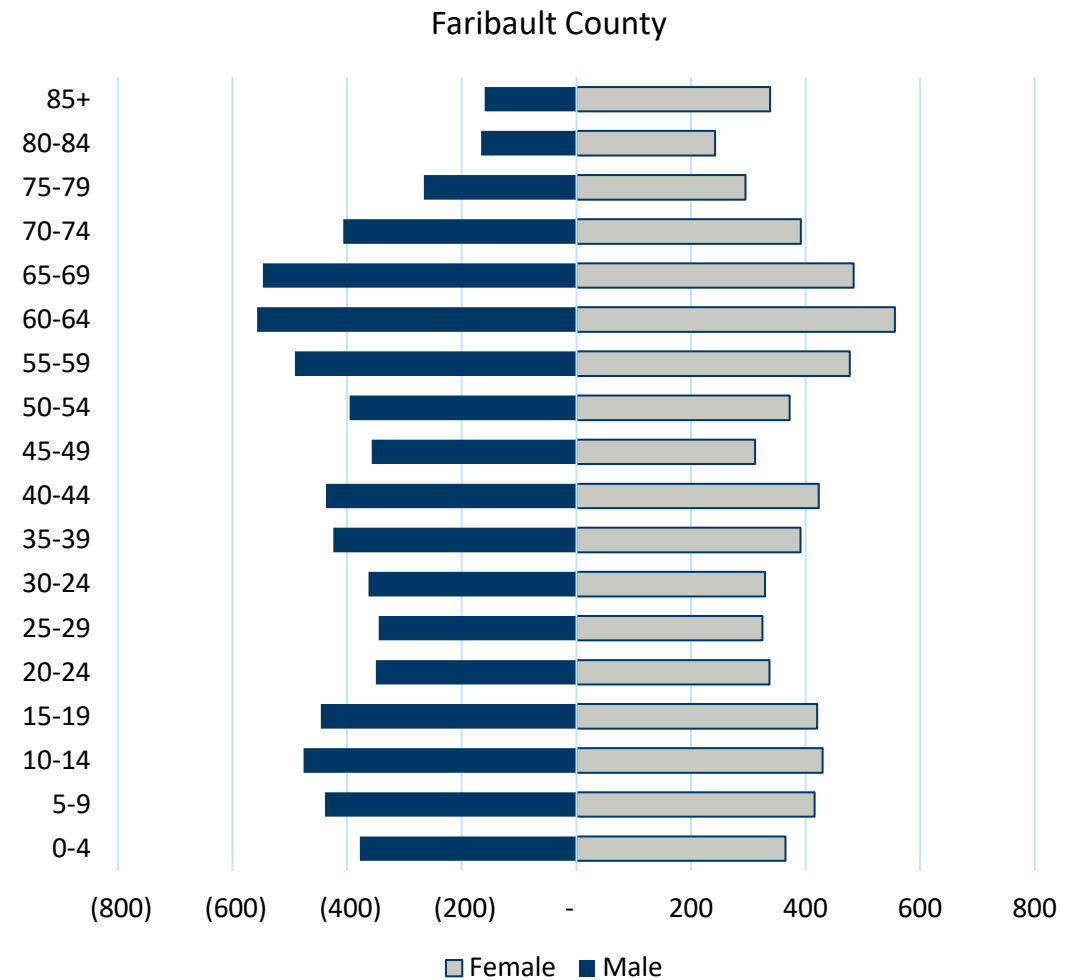
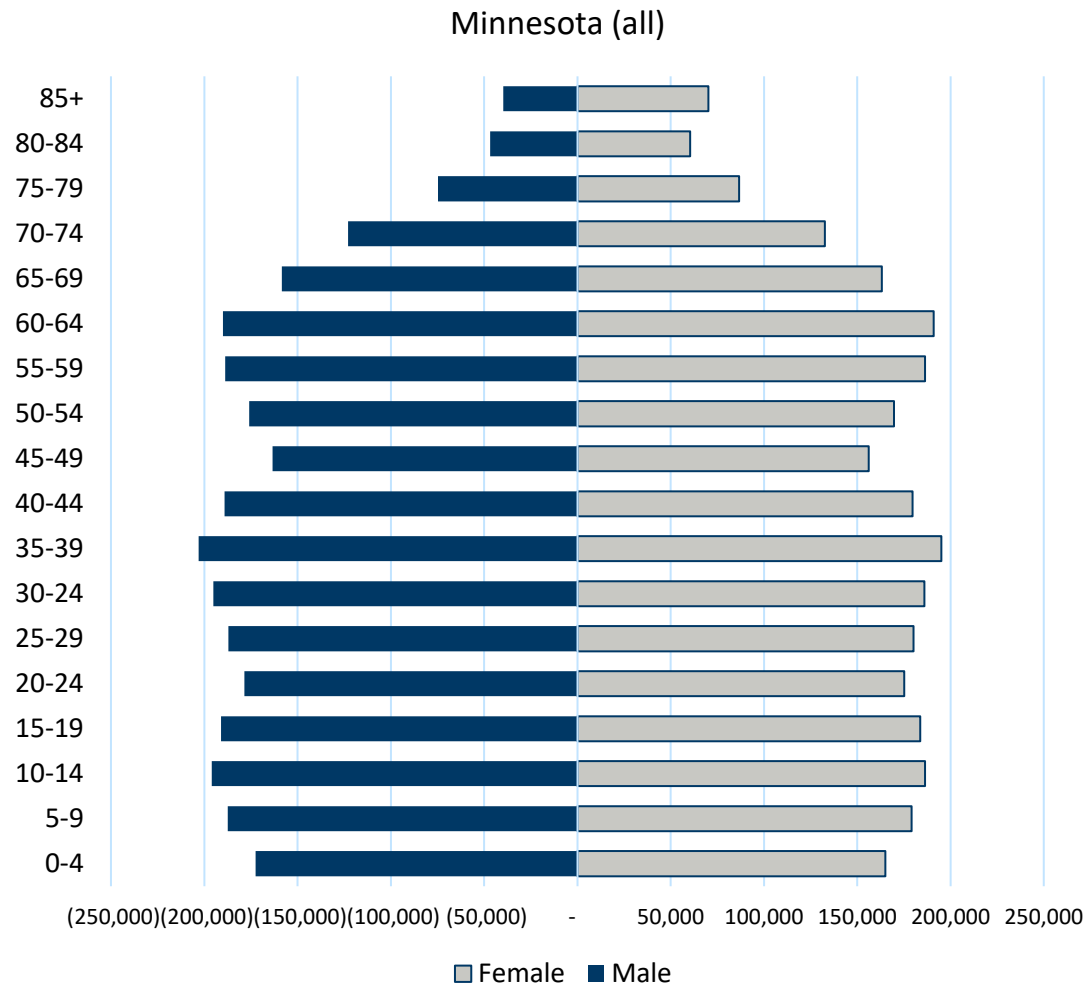
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

Minnesota's oldest counties tend to be more rural, less racially diverse

Percent of the
county that is
65 years or
older



Rural areas tend to have “slimmer waistlines”



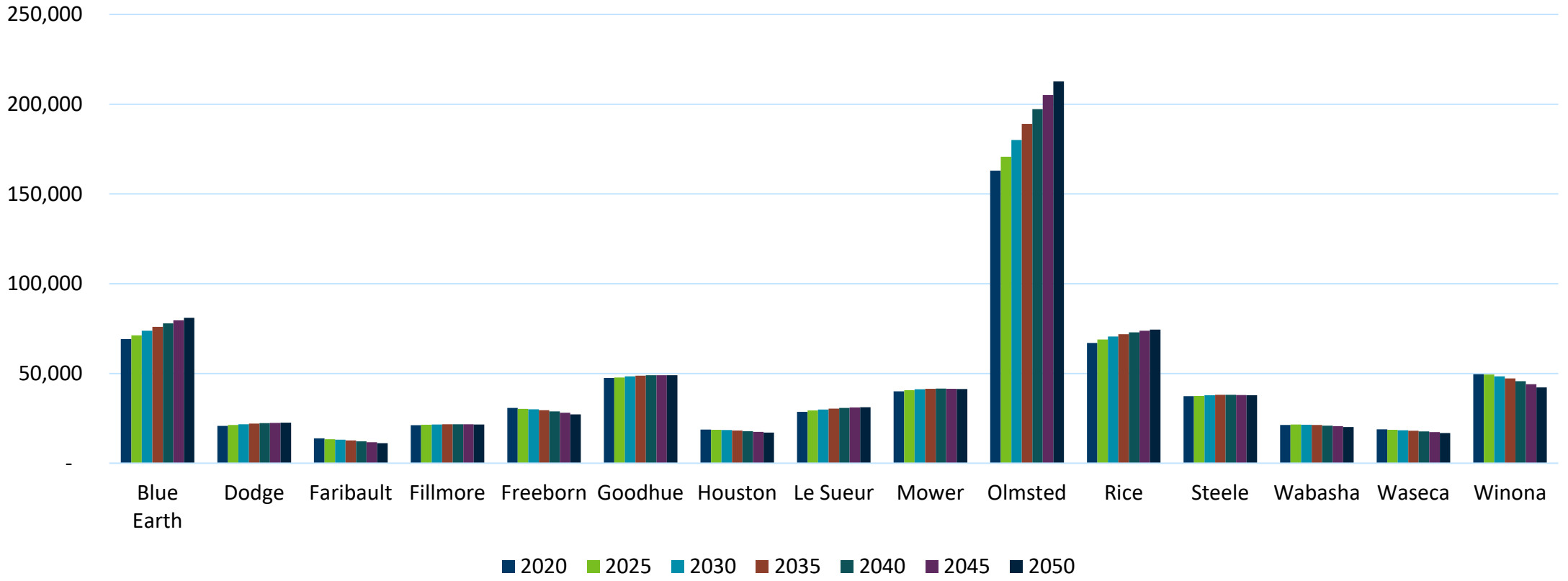
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 Population Estimates



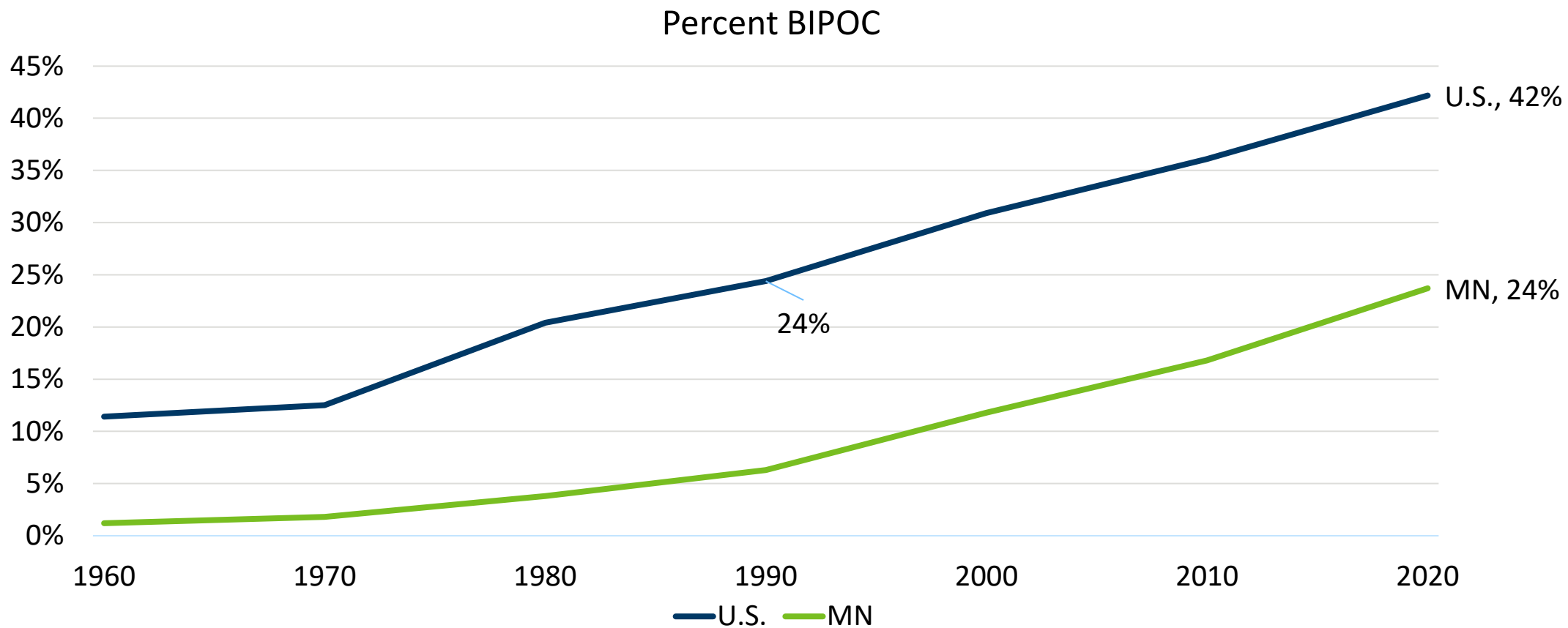
What will our communities look like in the future?

Some southeast Minnesota counties will grow, others are projected to lose population

Projected Growth of Southeast Minnesota Counties

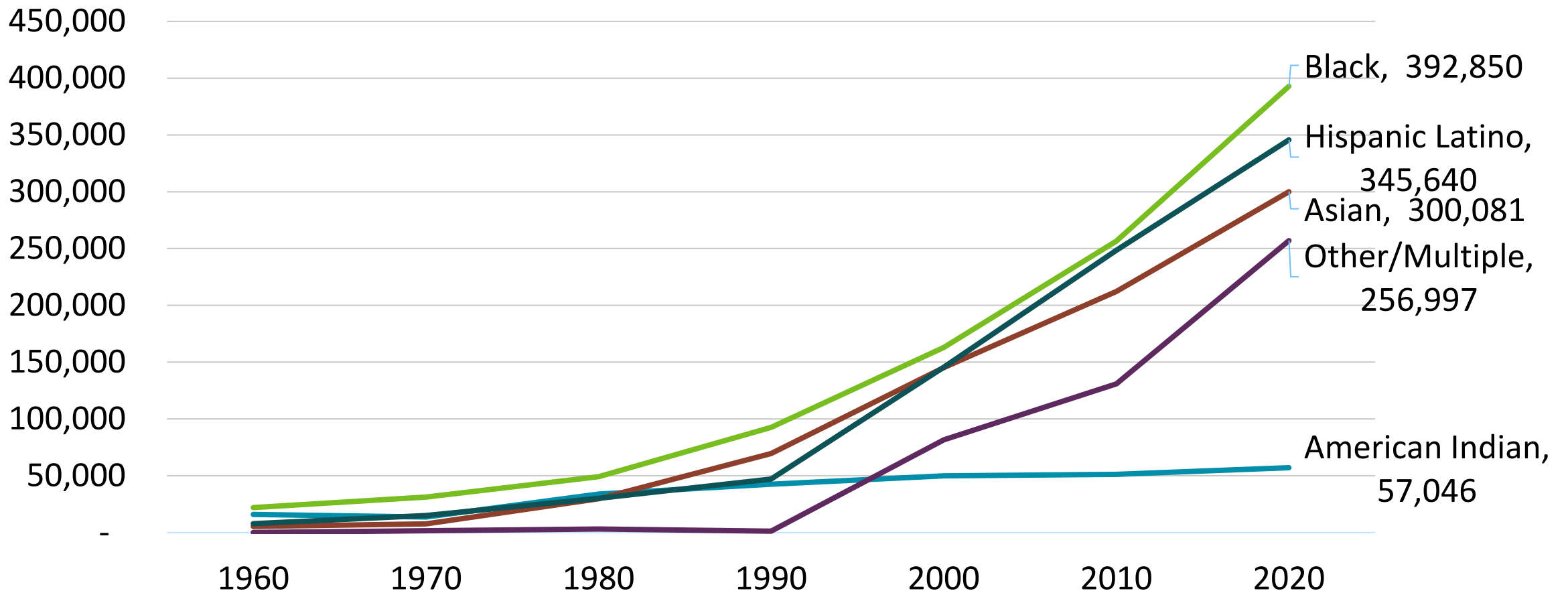


Today, about ¼ of Minnesotans belong to a BIPOC Group

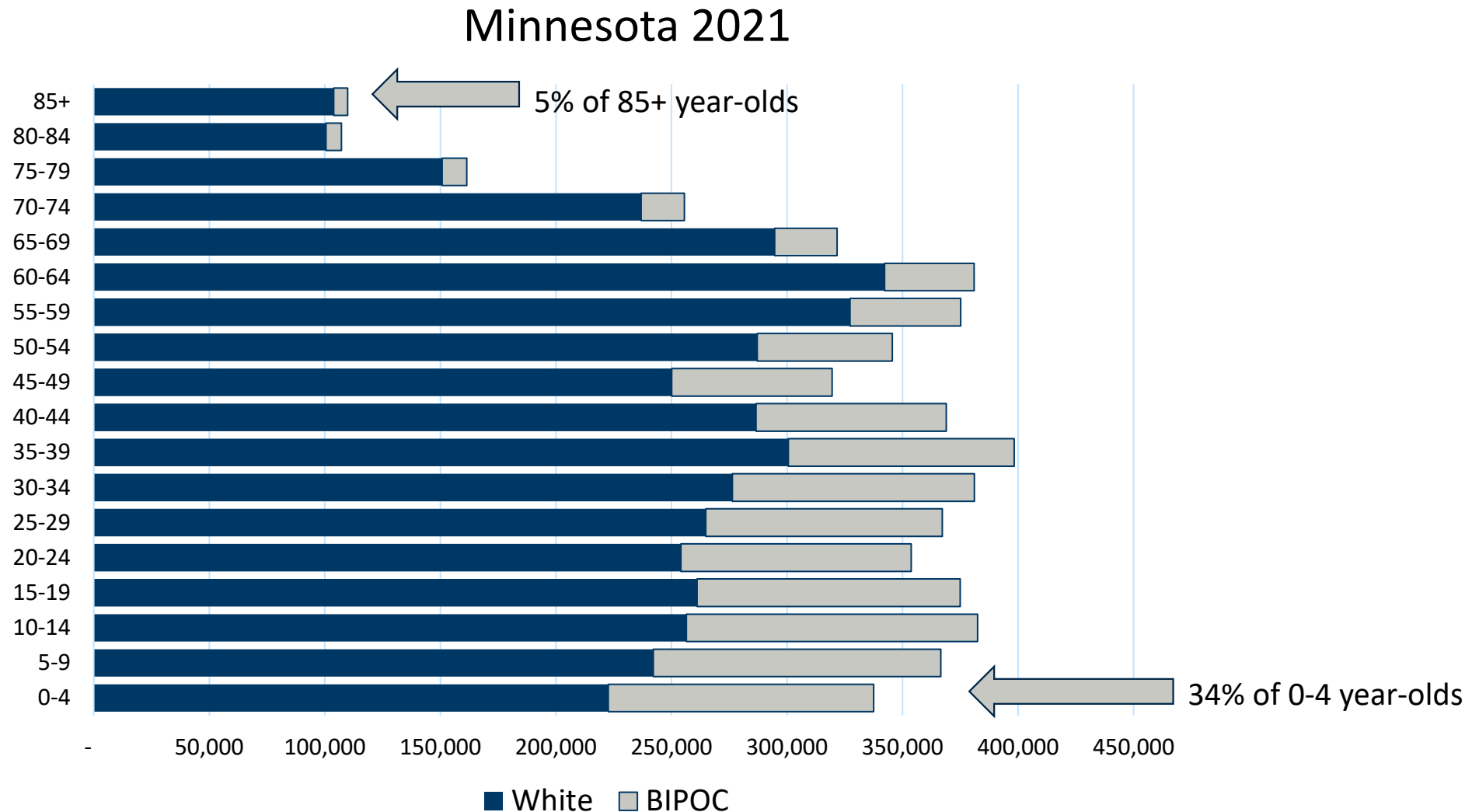


BIPOC groups now jointly total 1.3 million in Minnesota

Growth of BIPOC Race Groups

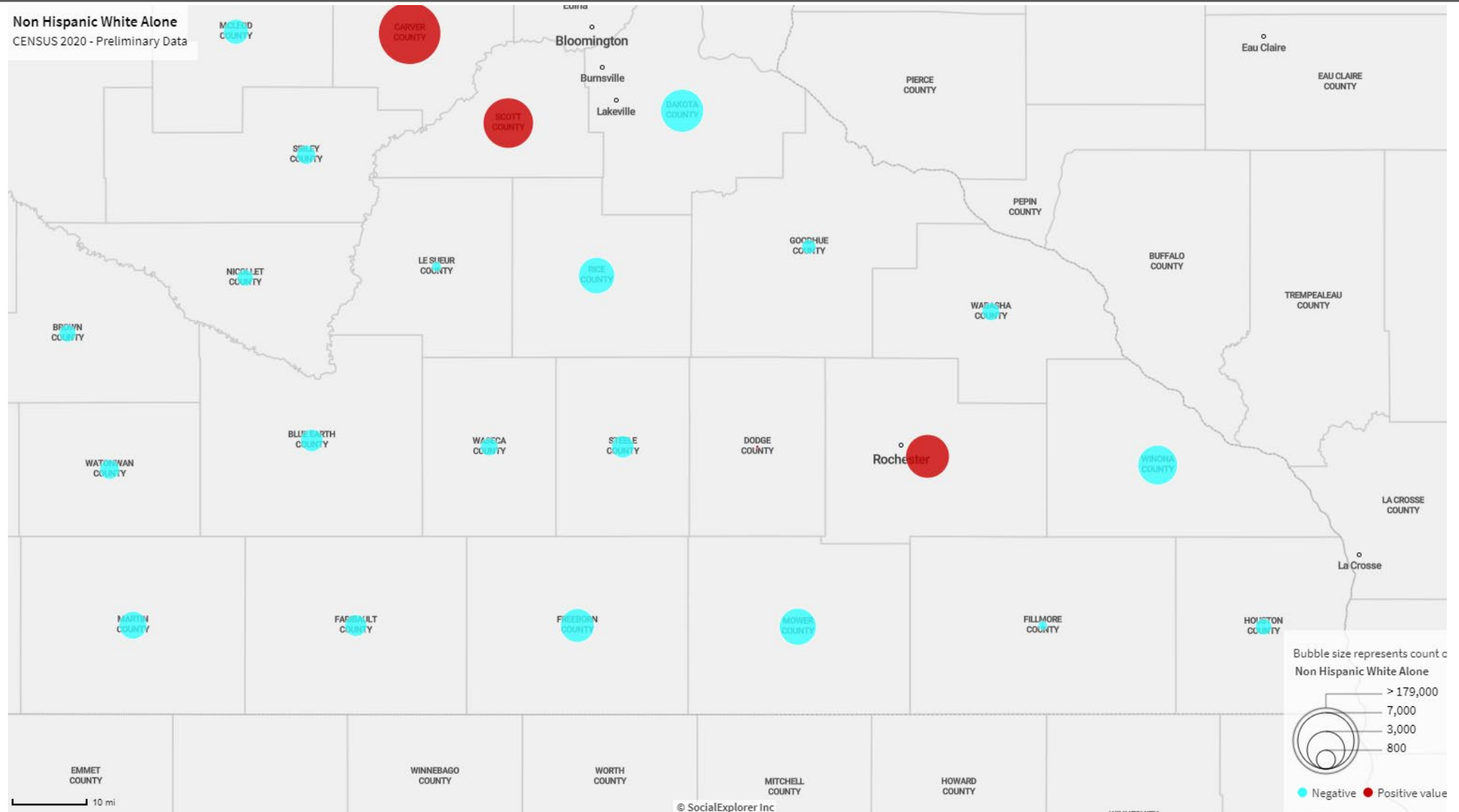


Minnesota's populations will continue to become more racially and culturally diverse



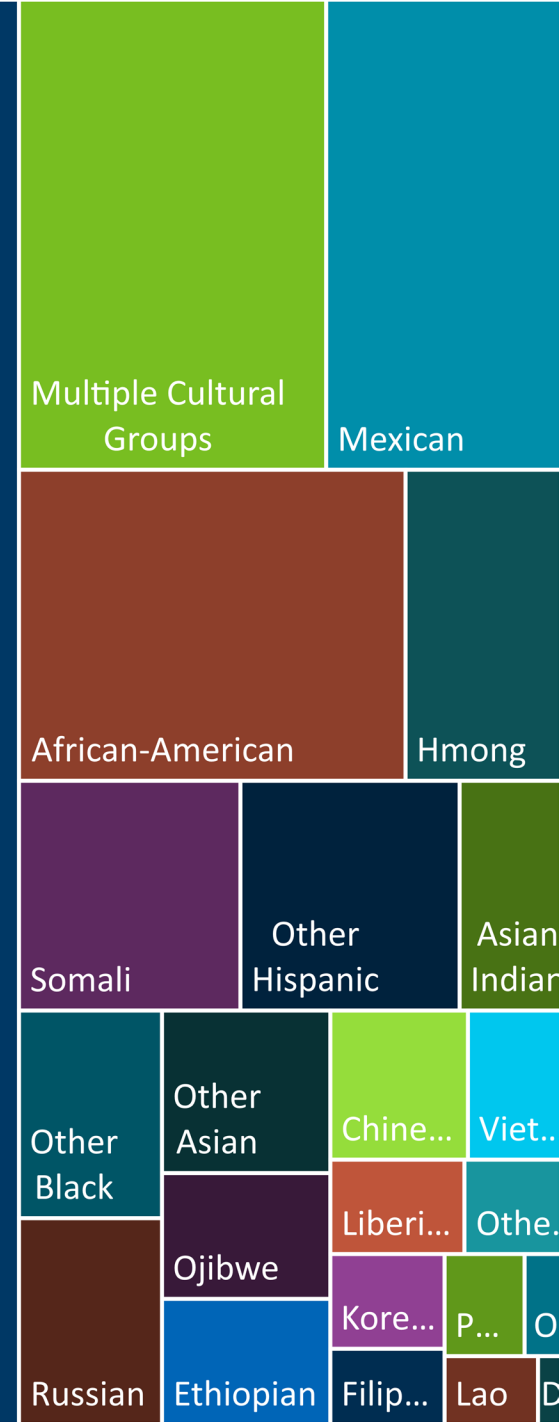
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Southeast Minnesota: White populations declined in all SE counties except Olmsted, 2010-2020



Population growth and increasing racial diversity tend to go hand-in-hand.

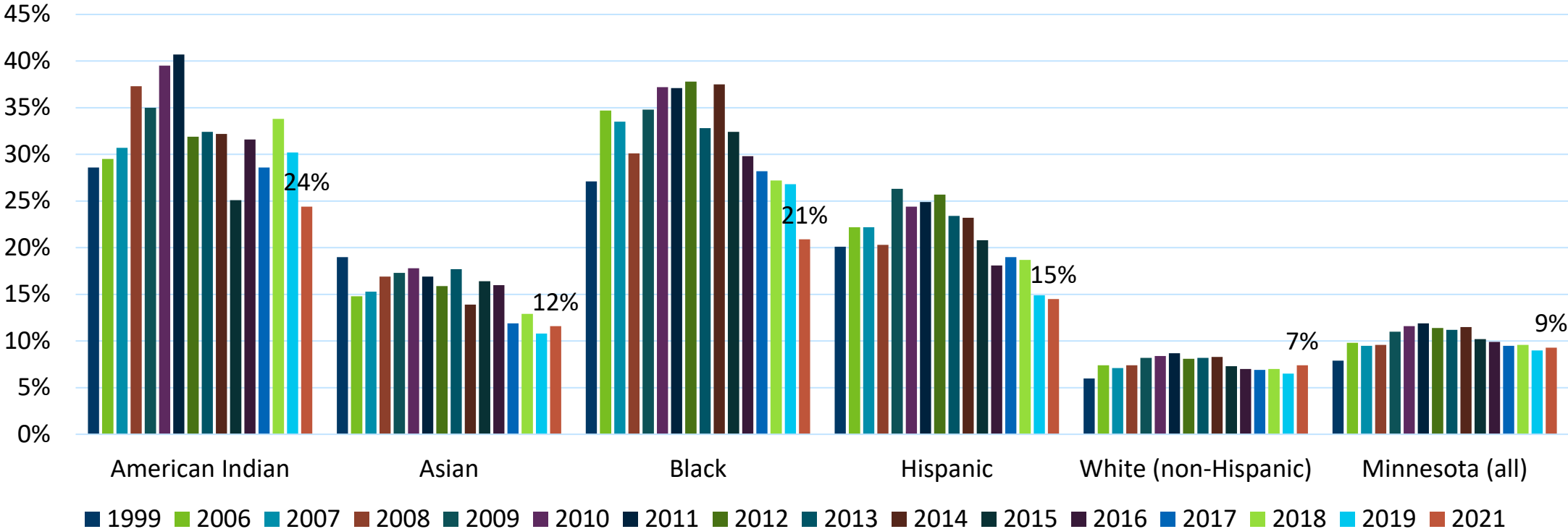
Minnesota by Major Cultural Group, 2020



Source: ipums.org, U.S. Census Bureau data

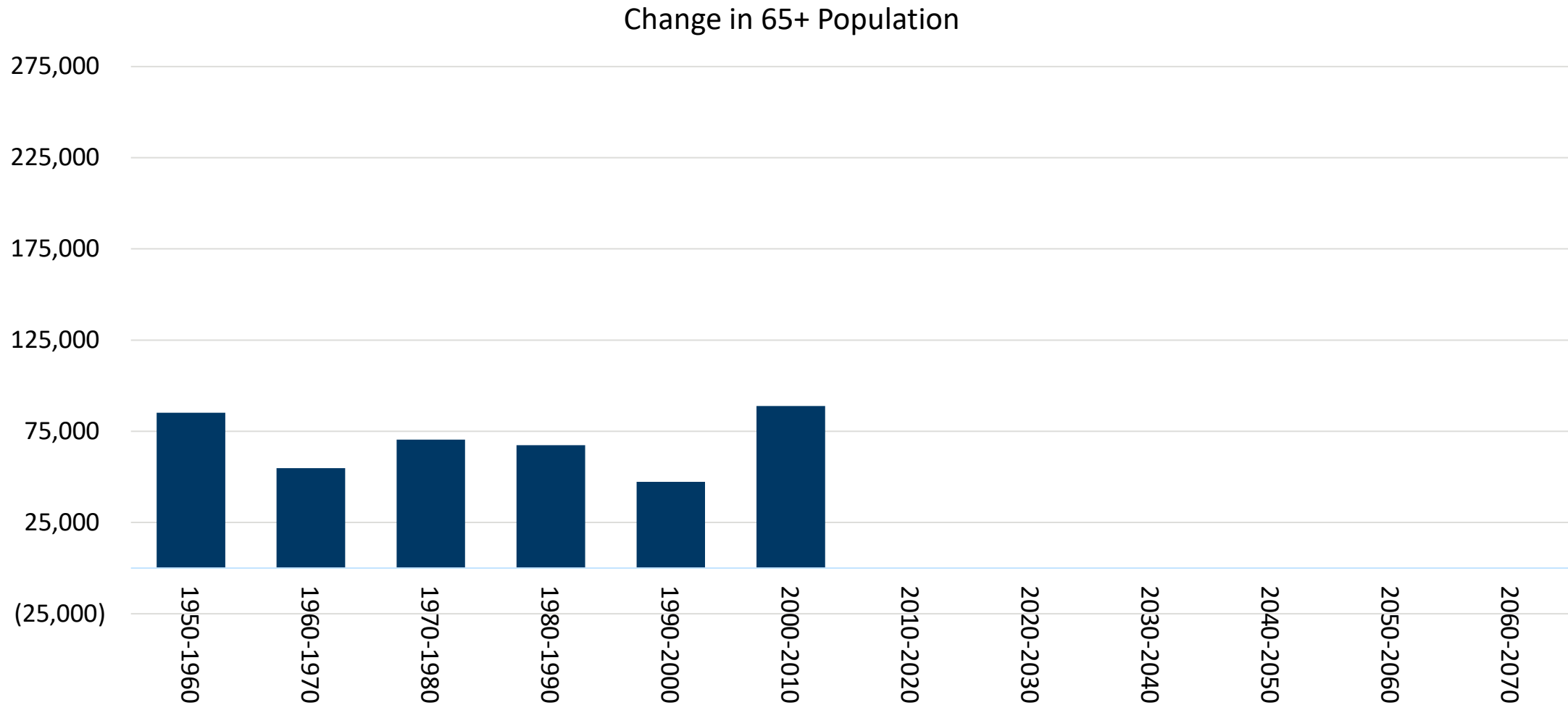
Long Term Poverty Trends in Minnesota

Rates of Poverty in Minnesota
By race, 1999-2021



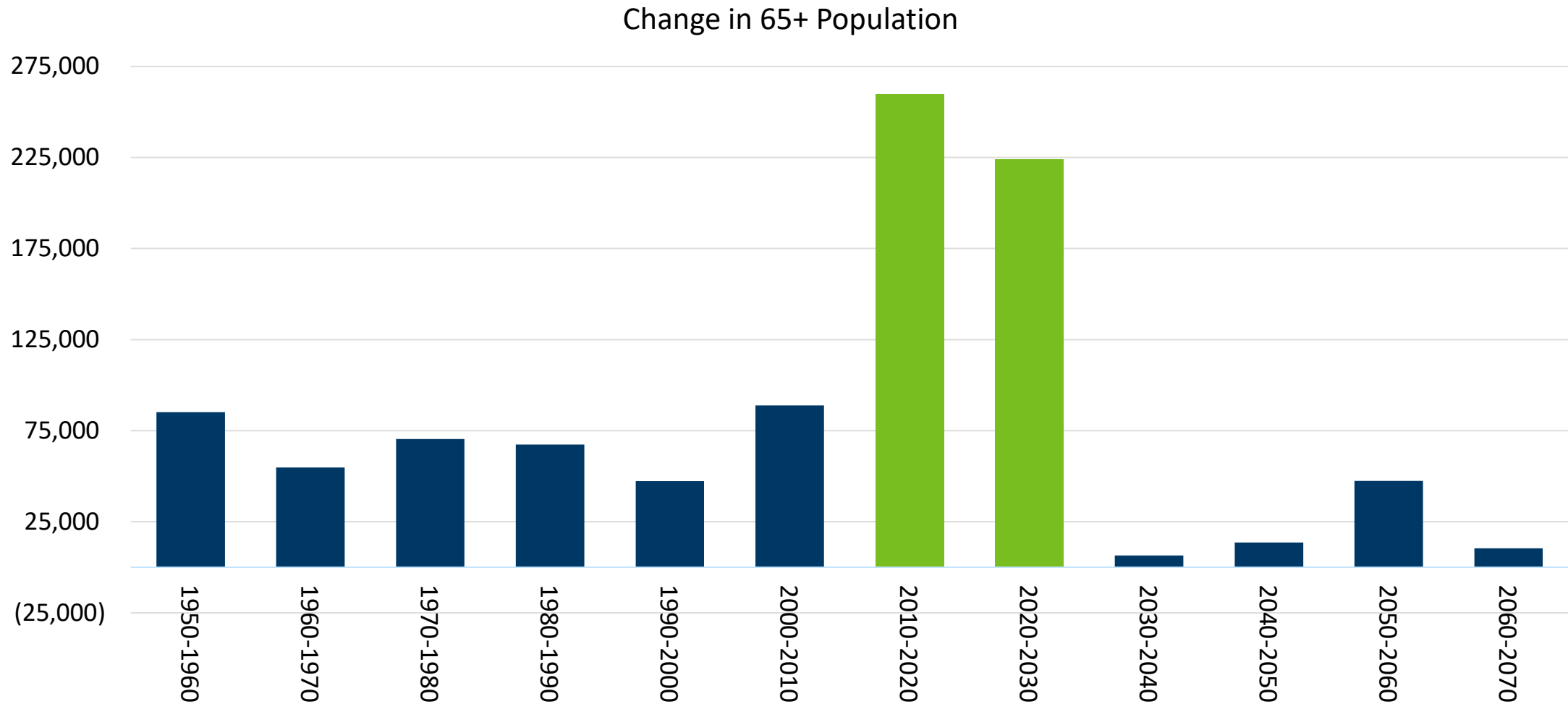
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey

Unprecedented increase in Minnesota's older adult population



Source: 1950-2020 U.S. Census Bureau, 2030-2070 State Demographic Center

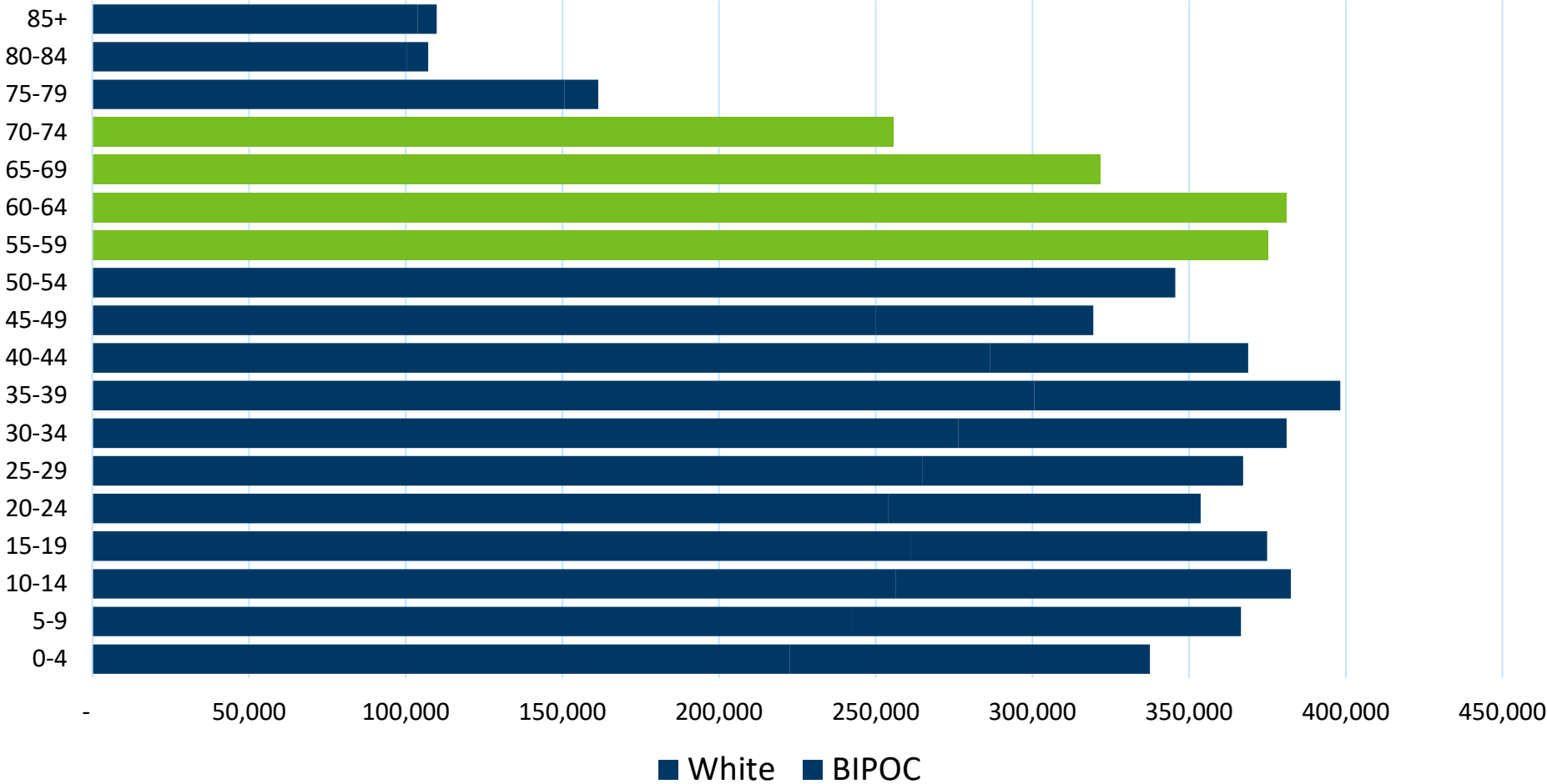
Unprecedented increase in Minnesota's older adult population



Source: 1950-2020 U.S. Census Bureau, 2030-2070 State Demographic Center

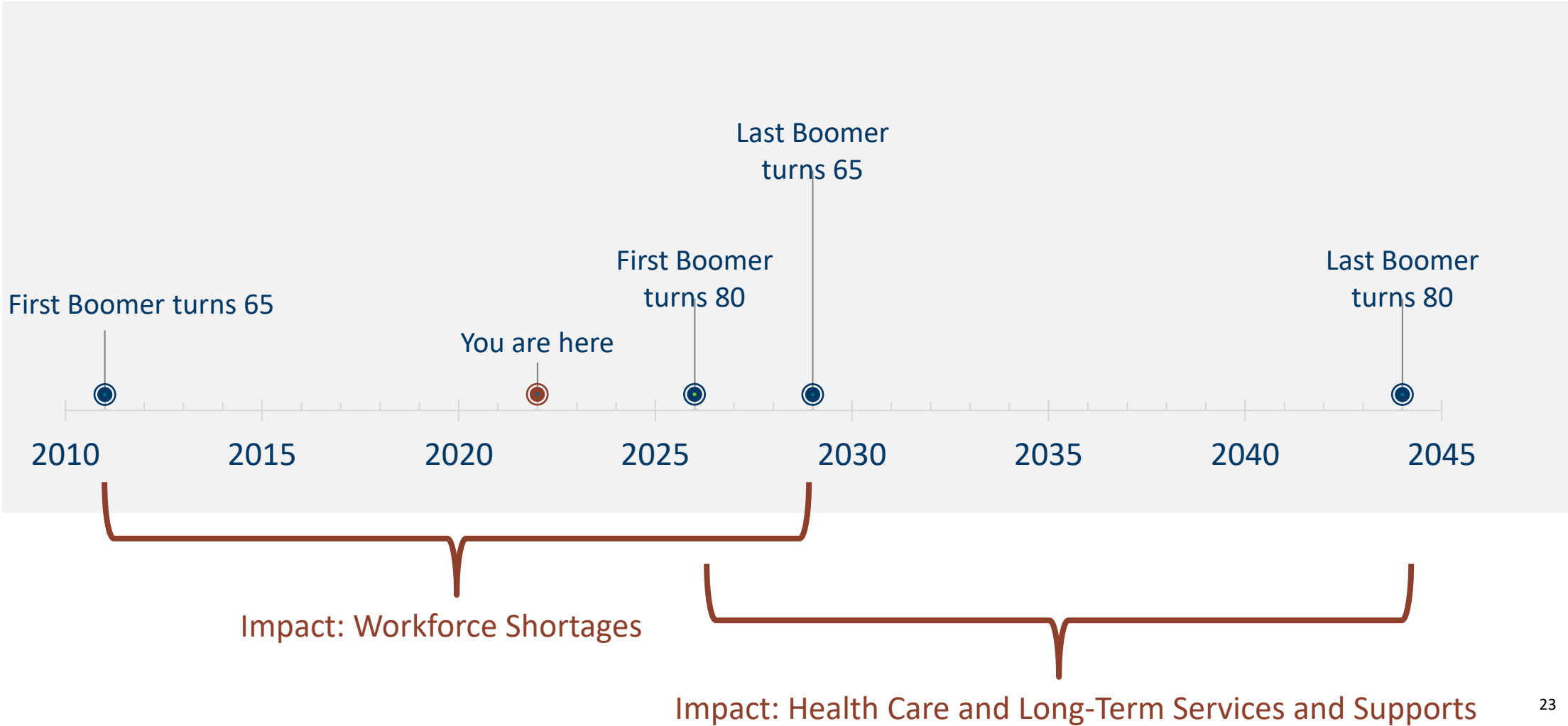
Baby boom generation will largely age out of their working years between now and 2030

Minnesota 2021

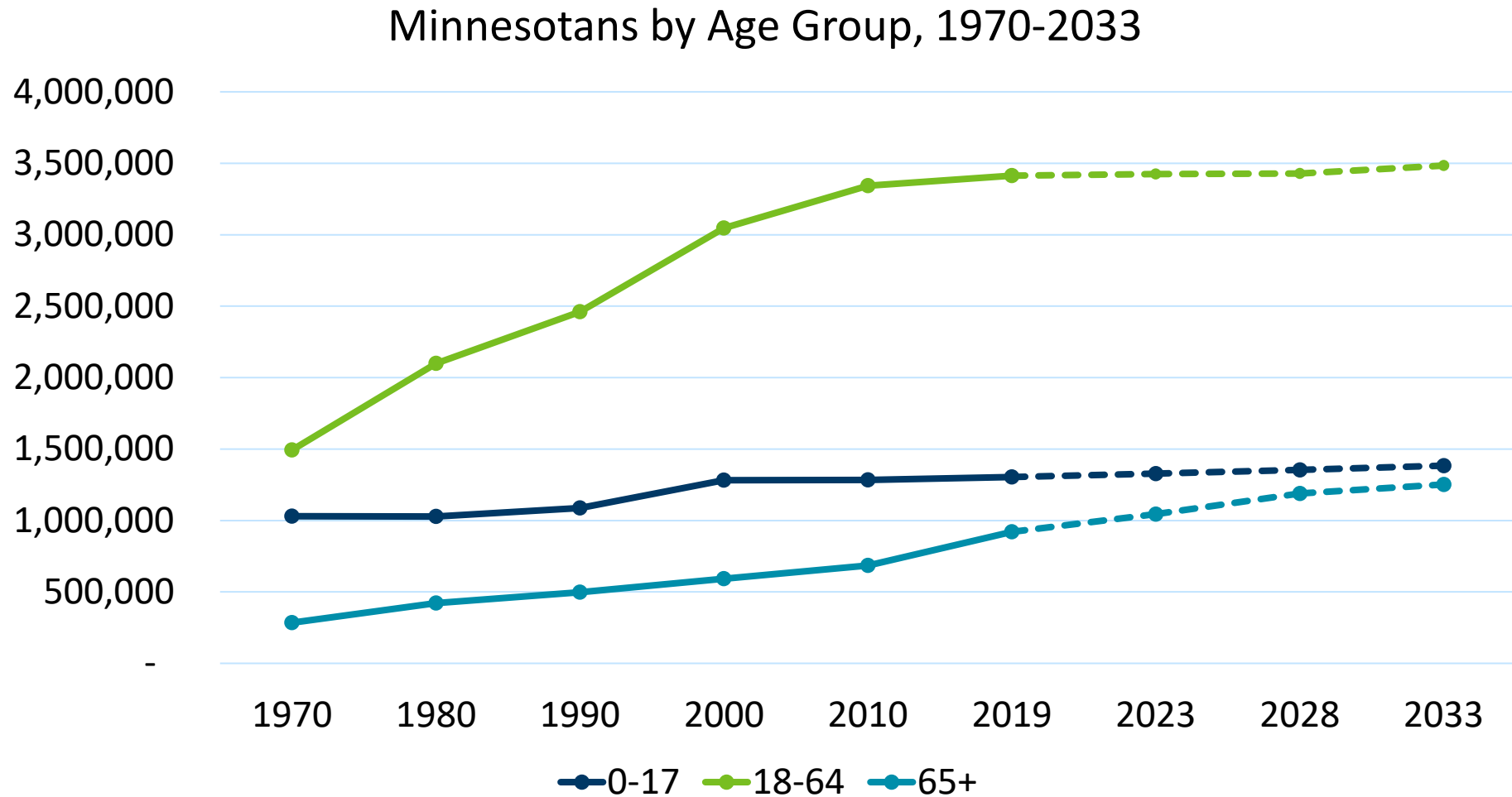


Source U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

When will we feel the impact of our aging population?

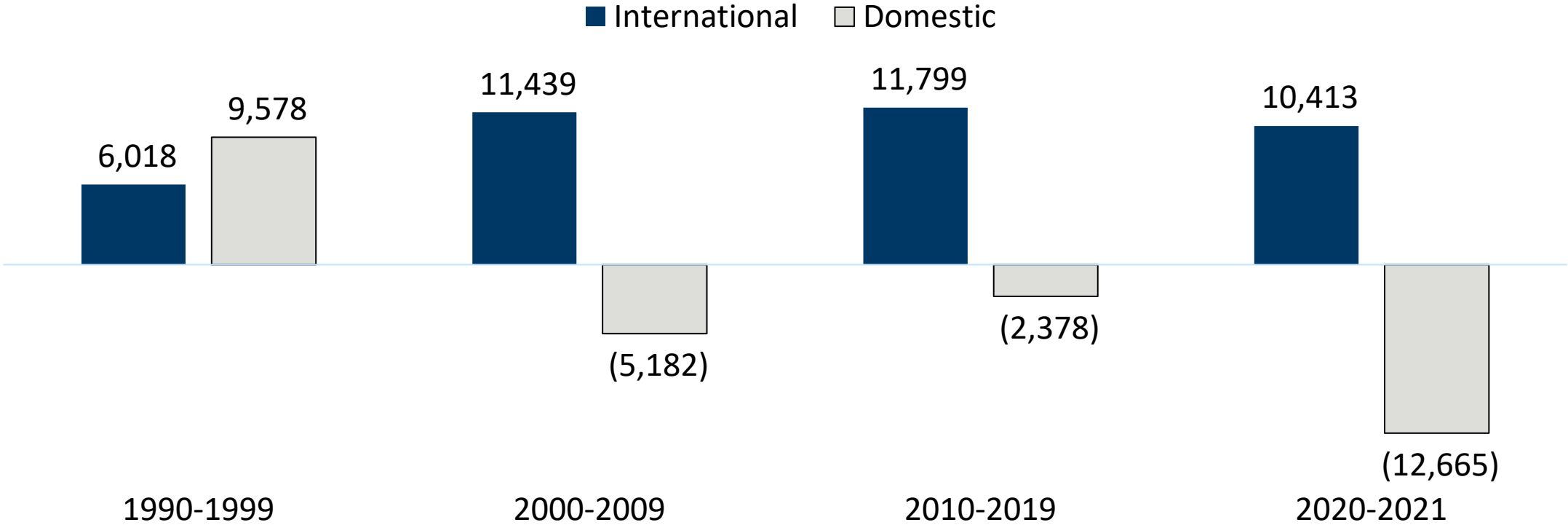


Little-to -no growth in working-age population in MN over the next 15 years



Losses from domestic migration persist; gains from international migration remain steady

Average Annual Domestic Net Migration Minnesota, 1990-2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

What will Southeast Minnesota communities be like in the future?

- Most communities will be older in the future than they are today.
- Some communities will be more culturally, racially, ethnically, linguistically, religiously diverse, but others will not.
- Some communities will grow rapidly, others will continue to decline slowly.

Final thought:

Demographic changes are the consequences of how we have lived our lives in the past. They are not reflections of how loving or beautiful or safe a community is. Communities in the future— no matter how big or small, young or old, diverse or homogenous—will be filled with people who need to find meaning, will desire human connection, and who want to be part of something larger than themselves.

Thank you

Email: susan.brower@state.mn.us

General questions can be directed to: demography.help@state.mn.us

Website: mn.gov/demography